

All Payer Claims Database Data Release Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
Jan. 22, 2018	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Legislative Office Building, Conference Room 2600 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford CT

Committee Members			
Dr. Patricia Checko, Chair	X	Justin Peng	X
Robert Blundo	X	Sheryl Turney (via webinar)	X
Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon		Kristen McClain (via webinar)	X
Lisa Freeman (via webinar)	X	Michael Fields	X

Support Staff			
Allan Hackney, HITO	X	Kelsey Lawlor, HIT PMO	

Applicant information	
Organization: Altarum	
Staff: Stacey Eccleston, Director of Payment Innovation Solutions for the Center for Value in Health Care	

Agenda

	Topic	Responsible Party	Time
1.	Welcome & Call to Order	Patricia Checko	2:08 PM
	Dr. Patricia Checko, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.		
2.	Public Comment	Attendees	2:10 PM
	There was no public comment.		
3.	Updates	Patricia Checko	2:15 PM
	Dr. Checko introduced Michael Fields to the Committee. Michael is the newest member of the Data Release Committee, and currently works as the Associate Director of Data Management for UnitedHealthcare's Regulatory Financial Operations.		
4.	Review and Approval of the August 16, 2017 Minutes	Committee Members	2:20 PM
	The motion to approve the August 16, 2017 minutes was made by Dr. Checko, and seconded by Robert Blundo. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.		
5.	Overview	Robert Blundo	2:25 PM
	<p>Robert Blundo, Director of the All Payer Claims Database, gave a brief presentation on the procedures for the Data Release Committee and the structure that the meeting would follow. He explained that the Data Review Committee would review the application(s) that have been submitted for approval, ask questions of the applicant(s), and then deliberate on the status of the application(s). The committee can approve the application(s) by majority vote, provide provisional approval contingent on the submission of additional information to the Committee, or the application(s) could be denied.</p> <p>Robert then introduced the applicant – Altarum. The organization, represented by Stacey Eccleston, has applied for use of the All Payer Claims Database information to compile data on episodes of care through claims data in an effort to compare Connecticut to national trends. Robert highlighted that this kind of work is central to the goals of the CT APCD.</p>		
6.	Q&A	Committee Members	2:30 PM
	<p>Dr. Checko began the conversation by asking Stacey Eccleston to explain Altarum's grouper application.</p> <p>Stacey stated that they use a Prometheus application for provider recognition analytics. They have been using Prometheus since approx. 2006, since which time it has been refined to include 80 different markers for episodes of care. Prometheus can bucket claims into what are considered to be typical services, and what are not. It can then link corresponding episodes together to track. Stacey went on to say that Altarum is interested in using the data from Connecticut's APCD to run through Prometheus and identify which episodes of care</p>		

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provide the best opportunities for better care interventions, as well as the rate of preventable and/or avoidable complications. Altarum would like to see how Connecticut compares to other states and APCDs around the country.

Dr. Checko asked Altarum to explain how they are defining the “provider” in their analysis of the data.

Stacey Eccleston answered that the provider can be either the individual practitioner, or it could be the facility at which the episode occurred and was treated. It can be the primary care provider assigned to the patient or a specialist who is providing the preponderance of care. Prometheus has external provider attribution capabilities.

Committee member Dr. Dias asked Altarum how they would be exposing their findings once their analysis is complete.

Stacey Eccleston answered that Altarum would provide a report to the State first, then make it publically available via their website.

Committee member Sheryl Turney asked Altarum what data range they were requesting.

Stacey Eccleston answered that they hope to use the most recent three years of data.

Robert Blundo clarified that this data would extend through the end of 2017.

Stacey Eccleston added that Altarum is using APCD data from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Colorado, and adding more as they go.

Sheryl Turney asked Altarum how long the lookback period will defined for.

Stacey Eccleston stated that the lookback period is generally triggered by a claim for a surgical procedure and extends 90 days after the procedure took place, and extends back thirsd days before the procedure. Chronic episodes are triggered by associated procedures and confirming claims.

Dr. Checko asked if Altarum has the experience to suggest that the proposed twelve-month time period is the right amount of time to complete this project.

Stacey Eccleston answered that, yes, Altarum has ample experience working with Medicaid data and other APCDs. They feel that twelve months is an accurate estimate.

Dr. Checko asked how Medicare standards for age groups above and below age 65 would be adhered to.

Stacey Eccleston answered that they would separate the age groups out to comply with Medicare standards.

Sheryl Turney asked if the final analysis would document the findings for age groups above and below age 65.

Stacey Eccleston said that, yes, they would treat the two age groups as separate data sets.

Robert Blundo clarified that the APCD would be able to provide Medicare Advantage claims, but not fee-for-service.

Stacey Eccleston stated that based on information, they would focus their analysis on commercial claims.

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Robert Blundo asked Stacey to confirm which data sets Altarum would like to request.

Stacey Eccleston confirmed that they would be requesting both commercial and medicare advantage claims data.

Robert Blundo stated that he wants to document appropriately that the timeframe of data that Altarum is requesting is for the last three years. Altarum can submit additional dates to account for runoff/lookback.

Committee member Justin Peng asked for clarification as to whether or not the APCD would release date of birth and/or date of prescription filled data.

Robert Blundo stated that the APCD is only allowed to disclose Year of date of birth for 89 year olds and younger. While dates of service are masked or only year is permitted.

Stacey Eccleston stated that they do not need to know the exact date, but do need to know relationally when services or episodes occur.

Robert Blundo stated that the only issue they could run into along this vein would be in seasonal studies. He believed that this would not pose a problem under the parameters set forth in the Altarum application.

Stacey Eccleston agreed.

Dr. Checko stated that Altarum may have difficulty capturing immunization data.

Justin Peng stated that the APCD cannot release a full zip code.

Robert Blundo confirmed that the APCD can only release a three-digit level zip code for populations greater than 20,000 lives.

Justin Peng asked Altarum if this would be sufficient.

Stacey Eccleston confirmed that this would be sufficient data.

Dr. Checko asked Altarum how they will be sharing their findings with the public.

Stacey Eccleston stated that they will be making the Connecticut data part of their larger multi-state project and expose data on a website, similar to the one used for Maryland data. They would also be submitting a report to the State.

Robert Blundo clarified that the website Stacey Eccleston referred to is affiliated with the Know Your Cost campaign in Maryland. He will send out information on the site and its reports to the Committee. He also stated that the APCD Data Use Agreement for Connecticut stipulates that the Health Information Technology will review the report before posting it to make sure it aligns with all standards and regulations.

Sheryl Turney asked if data will be identifiable at the provider level.

Stacey Eccleston answered that the data would be identifiable at the provider group level, not individual provider level.

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Sheryl Turney stated that some states have laws that allow time for providers to review the data/report. She emphasized that we should make sure that we are not in conflict with any existing regulations in Connecticut.

Robert Blundo answered that he was not aware of any similar regulations in Connecticut, but that he would circle back to check on that.

Dr. Checko said it was a good point to bring up – any data through CHIME, for example, could not be released at the provider level.

Stacey Eccleston stated that if an initial vetting process by providers is necessarily, Altarum can build that into the timeline.

Dr. Checko asked Altarum to expand on its use of the term “Quality Metrics.”

Stacey Eccleston answered that there are some quality metrics that are built into the Prometheus application, including complications and readmission rates, cost of services that are deemed avoidable, rate of complications per provider, etc. Quality measures are more narrowly defined.

Dr. Checko then stated that those quality metrics are based more on cost than outcomes.

Committee member Lisa Freeman asked how Altarum will be identifying avoidable complications.

Stacey Eccleston answered that Prometheus takes into account sampling for chronic conditions and diagnosis codes found on claims, particular sets of codes are deemed ‘complications,’ like sepsis, infections, or the exacerbation of a chronic illness.

Lisa Freeman asked if the application will pick up when a patient moves from one provider to another or changes location.

Stacey Eccleston answered that it would.

The Data Release Committee members then voted unanimously to enter Executive Session.

7.	Application Status	Patricia Checko	3:10 PM
<p>Following the Executive Session, Committee Member Michael Fields made a motion to vote on Altarum’s application. Robert Blundo seconded the motion. Members voted unanimously to approve the application.</p> <p>Robert Blundo made a motion to adjourn. Justin Peng seconded the motion. Members voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m.</p>			

Meeting information is located at: <http://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Lt-Governor/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Health-IT-Advisory-Council---APCD-Advisory-Group>